



Arizona Department of Transportation

Public Transportation Division

MEMORANDUM

To: MPO and COG Directors

Date: December 19, 2007

From: Jim Dickey, Director, PTD

Subject: State Public Transportation Update

Hello Directors and staff! Hope all is well and that you're enjoying Winter in Arizona.

Please find the end-of-the-year update on ADOT-PTD activities and a glimpse of the next few months.

* Implementation of FTA Grant programs are under full swing for this FY, with the exception of the JARC 5316 program. We are still awaiting final Department of Labor approval, and once given, we'll be prepared to distribute those funds. In January, PTD staff will be contacting grantees, COGs and MPOs on 5316 and 5317 contractual arrangements. Contact Gregg Kiely for more information.

* Speaking of funds distribution for 5316 and 5317, ADOT is developing a distribution strategy for your concurrence. We want to meet FTA requirements while creating the most simple process to distribute these resources. Look for some information on that in January. Contact Gregg Kiely for more information.

* And speaking of the FTA programs again, both the 5310 and 5311 programs are already gearing up for the NEXT YEAR program applications. Look for workshops on the new grant year for all the programs (5310, 5316 and 5317 together) in January and February. Both applications processes have undergone some cosmetic changes, but you'll find overall program objectives and application forms consistent with last year. But don't forget, coordination efforts are gaining in stature and popularity! Contact either Gregg Kiely or Sam Chavez for more information and schedules of events.

* The PTD Annual Report: Look for it on the ADOT web site!

* ADOT is working in preparation to make its first FTA 5309 Discretionary request (Bus and bus facilities). The request reflects statewide needs, representing not only ADOT but small MPOs with the intent to identify additional capital resources to meet our growing needs. No doubt, local partners need to be identified, but knowing program growth and the willingness of many of you to address new options, we think now is the time to make this request. The request is based upon a 10 year capital projection process that ADOT undertook internally, which focuses not only on stimulating the 5310 and 5311 programs, but addresses connections, commuting, vanpooling, and other options. Contact Matt Carpenter or Mark Hoffman for more information.

* ADOT is preparing a draft of a report on the Regional Transit Connector Service program, of which Pima County, RPTA, YMPO, and NAIPTA participate with services from Green Valley/Sahuarita to Tucson, Ajo/Gila Bend to Phoenix, Wellton to Yuma, and Kachina Village to Flagstaff. Look for that report this spring to help characterize the pilot program successes.

* State Safety Oversight program FTA Readiness Review is scheduled for the last days of March. ADOT's program has met all of its compliance standards and deadlines, and is now preparing for that review in cooperation with Larry Engleman and staff at METRO. Contact Scott Friedson for more information.

* LTAF II program distributions based upon the FY07 collections have been made. Check your mailboxes. As for next year, we have no news as to current collection rates (it's too early to tell), but should have some sense of funds in April or May. We've heard some rumblings out of the Legislature about this program, but nothing is concrete. We'll watch it closely and keep you informed. Contact Mark Hoffman for more information.

* Look for the 5311 Annual Report on the PTD website

- * And speaking of the 5311 program once again, ADOT submitted for review the National Transit Database report in a timely fashion. Contact Mark Hoffman for more information.
- * ADOT staff is gearing up for its next round of 5310 vehicle inspections. Look for a schedule soon. Contact Mark Hoffman for more information.
- * ADOT-PTD is beginning to look at the horizon of 2010 to anticipate what the US Census may bring to new MPOs. As a result of that, we may launch an "emerging MPO" program that addresses either transitioning from a 5311 to a 5307 program or going from no program to a 5307 program. We probably all recognize some significant differences in how the programs are administered, compliance, accountabilities, and other issues, so we will work hard to help those in those situations make the jump into the FTA process.
- * Planning program awards have been made for this year's funds. WACOG, Gila River Indian Community (GRIC), and Pinal County were awarded grants to do public transportation planning. Contact Matt Carpenter for more information.
- * The Arizona Rides Council has completed its efforts for this calendar year and is now publishing an annual report. It should be available soon after the new year, and can be found on the ADOT - PTD website. The Council had an excellent year and began to realize some successes in coordination in Pinal County, and recommended (contingent on available funding) for a new focus area to be addressed: Mohave County. Contact Gregg Kiely or Steve Rost for more information.
- * In the meantime, at the national level we've sensed a slow down of progress in the United We Ride/coordination program. We still remain hopeful that a new round of coordination grants under a new national program manager will emerge. But ADOT-PTD continues to move forward with enhanced coordination activities. See below! Contact Gregg Kiely or Steve Rost for more information.
- * But the good news, in partnership with ADOT FMS, PTD continues to push for state support for general fund allocations for planning, connectors, and other transit needs. New budget requests are now being considered and prioritized by the Department that focus on supporting coordination efforts through providing continued staffing support at ADOT and at DES. Contact Matt Carpenter for more information.
- * The Executive Order concerning Transportation Options for Arizona helped clarify and define process and future direction for the Division, Department, and State for transit. Information from that Executive Order effort is now being incorporated as a baseline for recommendations in the Transportation Framework studies currently underway. Look for tangible results as a part of those recommendations. Contact Matt Carpenter for more information.
- * On the coordination front, ADOT sees a real opportunity to streamline process while taking advantages of several efforts currently underway. For instance, we want to address the application process for 5316 and 5317, maybe in concert with the 5310 application process, to eliminate unnecessary duplication of effort. Similarly, knowing that we have regional coordination plans and that ADOT is beginning a new 5311 5-year planning process, we feel it imperative to address coordination efforts within the plans and in the coordination (excuse the play on words) of planning processes. Look for some new ideas on that from ADOT-PTD staff in the spring. Contact Matt Carpenter, Gregg Kiely, or Sam Chavez
- * Future transit investments identified in State Rural Transit Needs study will also be woven into the Transportation Framework studies process. We expect to release the report sometime soon. Contact Matt Carpenter for more information.
- * In concert with ADOT legislative staff, PTD considered some legislative options for this upcoming session but elected to pass.....we'll continue to monitor session activities for legislative concepts both pro and con...and keep you informed. Contact Matt Carpenter for more information
- * ADOT-PTD continues to have some discussions with the freight and passenger rail operators at both the state and national level. Contact Jim Dickey or Scott Friedson for more information.
- * Administratively, please welcome Carolyn Harmon to PTD as our Administrative Services Officer. Carolyn transferred from the Transportation Planning Division, so has a strong background to help support PTD staff. You can contact her at 602 712 8080. She also fields general questions on behalf of PTD and you can always transfer to her if you cannot immediately contact a PTD staff member...she'll be glad to help.

* On the personnel front, PTD is now moving forward to fill an open planning position. Expect to see that position available sometime in January. Contact Matt Carpenter for more information.

* And finally, Matt Carpenter will begin as Interim Director of the Public Transportation Division on December 24, replacing the old guy! Matt can be reached at 602 712 6790.

Remember, the ADOT PTD mission is to identify public transportation needs, and administer programs and resources to provide safe and reliable options for Arizona's communities.

Check us out on the Web at www.azdot.gov/PTD

Thanks...happy holidays! jd